REMARKS

Claims 19-30 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 19-20, drawn to a method for preventing, improving or treating of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), comprising administering a therapeutic agent comprising an effective amount of anti-CD81 antibody to a mammal in need thereof;

Group II, claim 21, drawn to a method for screening a substance as an active ingredient for preventing, improving or treating IBD, comprising: (a) contacting cells capable of expressing CD81 gene with a test substance, (b) measuring an amount of CD81 gene expression in the cells contacted with the test substance, and comparing the amount with an amount of the corresponding gene expression in control cells not contacted with the test substance, and (c) selecting the test substance reducing the amount of CD81 gene expressing on the basis of the comparison results in (b);

Group III, claim 22, drawn to a method for screening a substance as an active ingredient for preventing, improving or treating IBD, comprising: (a) contacting cells capable of expressing CD81 with a test substance, (b) measuring an expression amount of CD81 in the cells contacted with the test substance, and comparing the expression amount with an expression amount of the protein in control cells not contacted with the test substance, and (c) selecting the test substance reducing the expression amount of CD81 on the basis of the comparison results in (b);

Group IV, claim 23, drawn to a method for screening a substance as an active ingredient for preventing, improving or treating IBD, comprising: (a) contacting a test substance with CD81, (b) measuring function (activity) of CD81 after contact with the test substance, and comparing the function (activity) with function (activity) of CD81 not contacted with the test substance, and (c) selecting the test substance inhibiting the function (activity) of CD81 on the basis of the comparison results in (b);

Group V, claims 24-25, drawn to a disease marker for IBD, which comprises a polynucleotide having at least 15 continuous bases in the base sequence of a CD81 gene or a polynucleotide complementary thereto;

Group VI, claims 26-27, drawn to a method for diagnosing IBD, which comprises: (a) binding a RNA prepared from a biopsy of a subject or a complementary polynucleotide transcribed therefrom to the disease marker of claim 24 or, (b) measuring the amount of CD81 RNA derived from the biopsy using the disease marker as an index, and (c) diagnosing IBD on the basis of the measurement results in (b);

Group VII, claim 28, drawn to a disease marker for IBD comprising an antibody which recognizes CD81.

Group VIII, claims 29-30, drawn to a method for diagnosing IBD, which comprises: (a) binding a protein prepared from a biopsy of a subject to the disease marker of claim 28, (b) measuring the protein derived from the biopsy bound to the disease marker using the disease marker as an index, and (c) diagnosing IBD on the basis of the measurement results in (b).

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 19-20.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Dr. Mark J. Nuell, Registration No 36,623 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.

☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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